ſucceſs, and, in a month from the operation, was completed; and ſhe remains free from pain from that time to this.

P. S. I muſt mention what ſeemed remarkable upon the caſe: when the woman was put to bed, we came to obſerve the ſtate of the eye, which appear'd a little bigger than the other; and having cut through it, we found the humours very much confuſed: the aqueous humour was not ſo clear as uſual, the cryſtalline leſs ſolid and tranſparent, and the vitreous almoſt reduced to a liquid ſtate. The ciſt was very ſtrong and elaſtic, and had a cavity large enough to contain a large hen's egg.

V. *A Supplement to the Account of a diſtempered Skin, publiſhed in the 424th Number of the* Philoſophical Tranſactions. *By Mr.* Henry Baker, *F. R. S.*

Read Jan. 23, 1755.

IN the year 1731, a lad, fourteen years of age, was brought by his father from Euſton-Hall, in Suffolk, and ſhewn to the Royal Society, on account of his having a cuticular diſorder, of a different kind from any mentioned in the hiſtories of diſeaſes.

The extraordinary caſe of this boy was drawn up by Mr. John Machin, at that time one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society, and was publiſhed in the Philoſophical Tranſactions, N° 42.

As more than four and twenty years are now paſt ſince this account was given, and the perſon therein mentioned is ſtill alive, and was lately ſhewn at London, by the name of the Porcupine-man, with a boy in the like condition, both which I ſaw, and examined; ſome farther knowledge of him may not, I hope, be thought undeſerving the attention of this Royal Society.

His name is Edward Lambert. He is now forty years of age; a good-looking, well-ſhaped man, of a florid countenance; and, when his body and hands are covered, ſeems nothing different from other people. But except his head and face, the palms of his hands, and bottoms of his feet, his ſkin is all over covered in the ſame manner as in the year 1731, which therefore I ſhall trouble you with no other deſcription of, than what you will find in Mr. Machin's account above-mentioned; only begging leave to obſerve, that this covering ſeemed to me moſt nearly to reſemble an innumerable company of warts, of a dark-brown colour, and a cylindric figure, riſing to a like height, and growing as cloſe as poſſible to one another; but ſo ſtiff and elaſtic, that, when the hand is drawn over them, they make a ruſting noiſe.

When I ſaw this man, in the month of September laſt, they were ſhedding off in ſeveral places, and young ones, of a paler brown, ſucceeding in their room, which, he told me, happens annually in ſome of the autumn or winter months: and then he commonly is let blood, to prevent ſome little ſickneſs, which he elſe is ſubject to whilſt they are falling off. At other times he is commoded by them no otherwiſe, than by the fretting out his linen, which, he ſays, they

do very quickly: and when they come to their full growth, being then in many places near an inch in height, the preſſure of his clothes is troubleſome.

He has had the ſmall-pox, and been twice ſalivated, in hopes of getting rid of this diſagreeable covering; during which diſorders the warting came off, and his ſkin appeared white and ſmooth, like that of other people; but, on his recovery, ſoon became as it was before. His health at other times has been very good during his whole life.

But the moſt extraordinary circumſtance of this man's ſtory, and indeed the only reaſon of my giving you this trouble, is, that he has had ſix children, all with the ſame rugged covering as himſelf: the firſt appearance whereof in them, as well as in him, came on in about nine weeks after the birth. Only one of them is now living, a very pretty boy, eight years of age, whom I ſaw, and examined, with his father, and who is exactly in the ſame condition, which it is needleſs to repeat. He alſo has had the ſmall-pox, and during that time was free from this diſorder.

It appears therefore paſt all doubt, that a race of people may be propagated by this man, having ſuch rugged coats or coverings as himſelf: and, if this ſhould ever happen, and the accidental original be forgotten, 'tis not improbable they might be deemed a different ſpecies of mankind: a conſideration, which would almoſt lead one to imagine, that if mankind were all produced from one and the ſame ſtock, the black ſkins of the negroes, and many other differences of the like kind, might poſſibly have been originally owing to ſome ſuch accidental cauſe.

Mr.

Mr. George Edwards, Librarian of the College of Phyſicians, having lately drawn, and etched on a copper-plate, the hand of this boy, in ſuch manner, as to ſhew the palm free from theſe excreſcencies, and its other parts covered with them; and alſo a company of the excreſcencies, as they appear where largeſt; a copy of the ſaid plate, which I was favoured with by him, is now preſented with this account.

January 23, 1755.

VI. *An Extract of the Subſtance of Three Letters from* Iſaac Jamineau, *Eſq; his Majeſty's Conſul at* Naples, *to Sir* Francis Hoſkins Eyles Stiles, *Bart. and F. R. S. concerning the late Eruption of* Mount Veſuvius.

A larger Extract of theſe Letters was read Jan. 9, 1755.

IN the firſt of theſe letters, which is dated December 7, 1754, Mr. Jamineau acquaints Sir Francis, that they were then in the third day of an eruption of Veſuvius, which already far exceeded the laſt in 1751, and bids fair to equal any of thoſe ſince the burial of Herculaneum. It is ſome time that they have expected the preſent, from foregoing circumſtances, ſimilar to, though more extraordinary than, thoſe of former eruptions. Mr. Jamineau himſelf was witneſs to the following ones. In April laſt, the fire iſſued from one end of a hillock, in the ſhape of a creſcent, within the c.[10] , to which you deſcended from the upper

G. Edwards delin. *J. Mynde sc.*